



A Transloading Nightmare Transformed Into A Productivity Dream

The Challenge:

American Crystal Sugar (ACS) had five plants scattered throughout North Dakota and Minnesota. Each plant was receiving coal through split unit trains. Dealing with delivery delays and planning for future needs became a logistical nightmare. As a result, plants had to reduce production when they were running low on coal. ACS would try shifting coal from one location to another, but this wasted too much time and effort managing coal instead of running their plants.

The Solution:

Holland's transloading division and ACS worked together to design, build and manage a centralized coal repository. Through planning and research we chose a strategic location at the intersection of two Class 1 rail lines in Ardoch, North Dakota.

The remarkable facility was designed in such a way that coal trains never need to stop moving as they unload. Coal is unloaded into a pit and conveyed to a stockpile. The coal is then stored at the facility and loaded on to trucks for delivery to the five surrounding ACS plants as needed.

Thanks to our collaborative efforts, American Crystal Sugar no longer wastes their time trying to coordinate the coal trains to five locations. They now have the flexibility to increase or decrease production on short notice so they can focus on production in the plant, not coal inventory levels.